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LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Because of the dramatic deterioration of the situation of the Serbs and other non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent republic of Serbia, on Friday, 11 February 2000, I sent you a letter requesting, upon the instructions of my Government, an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider necessary measures to put, inter alia, an end to the present deterioration and to prevent the terror of ethnic Albanian terrorists and extremists in the future.

The ongoing massacre in Kosovska Mitrovica has made the security situation in Kosovo and Metohija even more dramatic and dangerous and the request for energetic action by the Security Council even more justified and urgent.

Today, Sunday 13 February 2000, ethnic Albanian terrorists have begun concentrated armed attacks on the northern part of Kosovska Mitrovica in which Serbs live as a majority population. The attacks, continuing at the time of the writing of the present letter, are carried out from the automatic and other weapons from the direction of Bosnjacka Mala, Suvo Grlo and the River Ibar bridge. By noon today (local time) a large number of Serbs had been severely wounded in an organized massacre. Kosovo Force (KFOR), as a whole, has shown neither readiness to prevent, nor has it been efficient preventing the terrorists of the "Kosovo Liberation Army" (KLA) from resorting to gruesome, genocidal terror aimed at expelling the remaining Serbs also from this area of their largest concentration.

Not only do parts of KFOR not take measures to prevent the "KLA" terrorists from committing those genocidal acts, they rather, for all practical purposes, provide them a safe passage for attacks on peaceful civilians in northern Kosovska Mitrovica.

The present tragic situation is a result of a systematic violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and the Military Technical Agreement, a failure of KFOR and the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) to carry out their mandates, including the obligation to demilitarize and disarm the "KLA", and their continued countenance

of terrorism and separatism under the aegis of the United Nations, to which my Government has drawn the attention of the Security Council on many occasions, unfortunately without results.

Following today's dramatic deterioration of the situation of Serbs in Kosovska Mitrovica, it is imperative that the Security Council take energetic and urgent action to put an immediate end to the ongoing, and to forestall future, attacks of armed ethnic Albanian terrorists on the unprotected Serbian population. To that end, I have been instructed by my Government to reiterate its request for an urgent meeting of the Security Council. If the Security Council fails to take prompt and energetic action, even in the present tragic situation, the failure might result in much larger and unforeseeable consequences. I also reiterate the request of my Government that the obligation of demilitarizing and disarming the "KLA" in deed rather than in word be carried out without delay and that security to all residents in Kosovo and Metohija be guaranteed.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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